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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 3, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable BOB INGLIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With this ardent petition, O gracious God, we pray for the gift of wisdom in our hearts and in our actions, that what we ask or think or do will advance the good of the Nation and be to the benefit of every person. May we have perceptive minds and discerning hearts; may we be astute in our judgments and show mercy in our decisions so that the gift of wisdom will be our heritage and our legacy. Bless us and all Your people this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] will

lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DURBIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE PRESIDENT'S RELEVANCE AND MEDICARE

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Bill Clinton proclaimed he was relevant to the legislative process. Since he is still President of the United States, I certainly hope he is relevant, but as time goes on, I begin to wonder.

The debate on Medicare is just one example of the President's slipping relevance.

Republicans in the House and Senate are taking steps now to save Medicare in the future.

Our plan will preserve, improve, and protect Medicare far into the next century.

But comprehensive Medicare reform will take bipartisanship, statesmanship, and cooperation.

Unfortunately, the President has decided to walk away from this problem. In fact, he has rejected Republican attempts to get the administration involved in solving the Medicare problem.

I urge the President and his advisers to join Republicans in saving Medicare.

Actions speak louder than words, and if the President wants to be relevant, he has to act relevant.

TIME TO BRING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INTO THE BUDGET DEBATE

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is getting ready to make dramatic changes in the Medicare program. I am concerned that the American people will not be included in this debate.

The Republican majority has already missed the deadline to submit a budget. To balance the budget and save \$1 trillion over 7 years will be a difficult task, I admit. However, the Republican majority should submit a plan which we all can review. The Republican majority makes promises without making the tough choices on how to achieve their goals.

The Republican majority plans to cut Medicare by \$300 billion over 7 years. These cuts will hurt seniors and result in higher costs. It is estimated that this will add \$900 in out-of-pocket expenses for seniors in 2002.

Democrats have been responsible in reforming Medicare. In the 1993 OBRA bill, Democrats voted to strengthen the trust fund and made it solvent for an additional 3 years. No Republican Members supported these important reforms.

I am also concerned that any Medicare cuts will affect the health care industry. In my district, reduction in indirect medical education and direct medical education will have devastating consequences. I represent the Texas Medical Center which has two medical schools. Any Medicare reductions in these payments will negatively impact the Houston area, and I will work vigorously to oppose these reductions.

If we are going to balance the budget, the American people should be involved and we should all contribute fairly to the solution. Without a plan,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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